

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6198

S E C R E T BELGRADE 2858

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG CU PARM UN

SUBJECT: TITO AT SSOD; CUBA AND THE NAM

1. UNDER SECRETARY LONCAR TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 7 THAT IT WAS "VERY UNLIKELY" THAT PRESIDENT TITO WOULD ATTEND THE UPCOMING SSOD IN NEW YORK. TWO REASONS WERE GIVEN: 1) THE OUTCOME OF THE SSOD IS UNLIKELY TO BE SUFFICIENTLY SUBSTANTIVE TO MERIT HIS ATTENDANCE; 2) GIVEN THE SECURITY PROBLEMS INHERENT IN A TITO VISIT TO THE U.N., THERE IS A DANGER THAT TITO'S "VERY GOOD" IMPRESSION OF THE U.S. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE WASHINGTON VISIT WOULD BE UNDONE IF THERE WERE DEMONSTRATIONS ("WHICH ARE FAR HARDER TO CONTROL") IN NEW YORK.

2. LONCAR ALSO SAID THAT THE GOY IS WORKING VERY HARD FOR A "MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME" TO THE JULY 24-29 NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BELGRADE, BUT THE OBSTACLE IS CUBA. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SPENT "FIVE VERY DIFFICULT HOURS" WITH CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA LAST WEEK, AND THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC HAD SPENT A SHORTER BUT EQUALLY DIFFICULT TIME WITH HIM (SPECIFICS OF DISCUSSIONS UNDISCLOSED).

3. YUGOSLAV ABILITY TO "CONTAIN" CUBA, BOTH IN KABUL AND BELGRADE, LONCAR SAID, WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE STATE OF US-CUBAN RELATIONS AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING.

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"IF CUBA AND THE U.S. ARE AT EACH OTHERS THROATS" CUBA WILL TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THAT FACT TO BRING THE NON-ALIGNED TO HER DEFENSE, AND PUSH -- PROBABLY SUCCESSFULLY -- FOR MINISTERIAL SUPPORT FOR HER EXTREME POSITIONS ON PUERTO RICO, ETC. LONCAR SAID HE HOPED, THEREFORE, THAT THE US WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO AVOID ANY MAJOR CONFRONTATION WITH HAVANA AROUND THE TIME OF BOTH MEETINGS. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE

UNDERSTOOD THE POINT, BUT THAT THE CHOICE WOULD NOT BE OURS ALONE
TO MAKE; CUBAN ACTIONS WOULD HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH
SETTING THE TONE OF THE RELATIONSHIP.
EAGLEBURGER

SECRET

NNN

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